

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to Internet information services. In particular, the present invention relates to improvements related to and / or use of the Usenet. The present invention also has application to email systems, as well as other electronic distribution media.

In one aspect, the present invention relates to the distribution, access and / or download speed of Web objects, and involves a new system design and method of use, providing a Usenet based alternative to the current Web caching and mirroring solutions.

A second aspect of the present invention relates to a method that enables relatively transparent encoding within Web objects' URLs information necessary to locate the object in a Usenet server and retrieve it. The method also allows transparent retrieving of news cached objects from their original servers.

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